

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 IO-11 JUSE-00

NSAE-00 SNM-02 TRSE-00 USIA-06 NSC-05 OES-03 OMB-01

SCA-01 SCS-03 VO-03 /062 W

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R 031236Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0795

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

DEA WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 3277

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CASC, UR, SNAR

SUBJECT: SOVIET POLICY IN RECENT DRUG SEIZURE CASES

REF: MOSCOW A-39 OF FEBRUARY 10, 1976, MOSCOW 3138, MOSCOW 2566

1. SOVIET AUTHORITIES HAVE TAKEN DRASTICALLY DIVERGENT APPROACHES IN TWO RECENT CASES INVOLVING CITIZENS OF NON-SOCIALIST COUNTRIES CAUGHT IN POSSESSION OF CONTRABAND DRUGS AT MOSCOW SHEREMET'YEVO AIRPORT.

2. IN JULY 1975, FOUR DTUCH AND TWOWEST GEEMAN CITIZENS WERE CAUGHT AT THE AIRPORT IN POSSESSION OF APPROXIMATELY 7-10 KILOGRAMS OF HASHISH EACH. THEY WERE ARRESTED, TRIED, AND SENTENCED BY A SOVIET COURT TO 8-10 YEARS IN A SOVIET LABOR CAMP. AS REPORTED REFAIR, THEY ARE STILL IMPRISONED UNDER VERY DIFFICULT CONDITIONS DESPITE NETHERLANDS GOVERNMENT REQUESTS THAT THEY BE PARDONED OR THEIR SENTENCES BE SHORTENED.

3. AS REPORTED REFTELS, SOVIETS APPREHENDED AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL AT SHEREMET'YEVO AIRPORT FEBRUARY 18 IN POSSESSION 7-10 KILOGRAMS OF WHAT APPEARS TO BE MARIJUANA. BORDER TROOPS INDICATED  
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NO DESIRE TO ARREST HIM, AND AUSTRALIAN CONSULAR OFFICER HAD TO

REQUEST THAT THEY TEMPORARILY DETAIN HIM SO THAT AUTHORITIES  
IN EUROPE COULD BE INFORMED OF HIS TRAVEL PLANS.

4. AFTER CONSULTATIONS WITH DUTCH AND AUSTRALIAN CONSULAR OFFICERS,  
WE ARE UNABLE TO ACCOUNT FOR THE STRIKING DIFFERENCE IN SOVIET  
BEHAVIOR IN THESE CASES, EXCEPT THAT SUCH DECISIONS MAY BE DUE TO  
WHIM OF THE AUTHORITIES RATHER THAN RULE OF LAW. BOTH  
THE ARRESTED DUTCH CITIZENS AND THE RELEASED AUSTRALIAN WERE  
TRANSITTING MOSCOW WITHOUT ENTRY VISAS, AND EACH INDIVIDUAL INVOLVED  
IN THE INCIDENTS CARRIED A SIMILAR AMMOUNT AND APPARENTLY SIMILAR  
TYPE OF MATERIAL. WE NOTE, HOWEVER, THAT THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF MATERIAL  
SEIZED IN THE DUTCH/GERMAN CASE WAS SIGNIFICANTLY LARGER THAN THE  
AMOUNT  
CONFISCATED FROM THE AUSTRALIAN. ACCORDING TO THEIR RESPECTIVE  
CONSULS, NEITHER THE NETHERLANDS NOR AUSTRALIA HAS A CONSULAR  
CONVENTION WITH USSR. WE CAN ONLY CONCLUDE THAT SOVIET BEHAVIOR IN  
A SIMILAR INCIDENT INVOLVING AMERICAN CITIZENS WOULD BE UNPREDICTABLE,

ALTHOUGH THE APPARENT SOVIET POLICY OF NOT SENTENCING AMERICANS  
TO PRISON TERMS MIGHT PROVE TO BE THE DECISIVE FACTOR.

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** POLICIES, DRUG TRAFFIC, ARRESTS, DRUG SEIZURES  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 03 MAR 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** ElyME  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1976MOSCOW03277  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D760081-0980  
**From:** MOSCOW  
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**Line Count:** 83  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION EUR  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 76 MOSCOW A-39, 76 MOSCOW 3138, 76 MOSCOW 2566  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** ElyME  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 26 APR 2004  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <26 APR 2004 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <20 AUG 2004 by ElyME>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
04 MAY 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** SOVIET POLICY IN RECENT DRUG SEIZURE CASES  
**TAGS:** CASC, SNAR, UR, AS, NL  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006